

cannot develop or maintain effective foreign policies, trade strategies, and business practices if the physical characteristics and political boundaries of various regions of the world are unfamiliar to us. Likewise, our efforts to promote international understanding and cooperation depend, in large part, upon our ability to understand the language, customs, and physical circumstances of other peoples. Because geographic conditions can have a profound effect upon each nation's development and role in the world, it is vital that we study them carefully.

During Geography Awareness Week, we recognize the importance of encouraging every American citizen to develop a thorough understanding of elementary geography. Fortunately, we have already begun to address the need for improvements in America's educational system, including renewed emphasis on the basics. By imparting to our Nation's schoolchildren a greater understanding of geography, and by ensuring that we set a positive example for them through our own efforts to study the world around us, we can give them one of the most important tools they will need to function in the global community.

To focus attention on the importance of the study and mastery of geography, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 120, has designated the week beginning November 12, 1989, as "Geography Awareness Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning November 12, 1989, as Geography Awareness Week. I urge all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6067 of November 14, 1989

American Education Week, 1989

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Education is a lifelong process of growth and discovery that, for each child, begins within the inimitable shelter of the family and extends through years of schooling and experience. During American Education Week, we pause to reflect upon the importance of a strong educational system to our well-being as individuals and as a Nation.

America's schools play an important role in nurturing our children's intellectual and social development. By helping their students grow in knowledge, skill, and reasoning ability, teachers not only open the doors of opportunity for them, but also help them to become responsible, productive citizens. Giving young people a greater understanding of

our Nation's history and preparing them to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens, America's schools help strengthen our system of self-government.

Our Nation's Founding Fathers clearly understood the vital connection between liberty and learning. They knew that only an educated and informed public can keep a free and democratic government. Like Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, our fourth President, was a strong advocate of public education. "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance," he once wrote, "and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

Two hundred years after our Nation's founding, we can be grateful for the dedication to learning that is so deeply ingrained in American tradition. However, standing on the threshold of the 21st century also compels us to examine the state of American education and consider what it holds for our future. A good education is a lasting treasure in its own right, but is also essential to keeping the United States strong and prosperous in an increasingly competitive world.

In September, I met with the Nation's Governors in an historic Summit to discuss the challenges facing us in working toward excellence in education. The President's Education Summit with the Governors brought forth unanimous agreement on the significance of this issue to the future of the Nation and to the quality of life for every American. We will build upon the vision of our Founding Fathers in establishing national education goals and in mobilizing a state-by-state effort to restructure our educational system.

Improving our Nation's education system is not a job for its chief executives alone, however. The challenge and responsibility for the Nation's future must be met by each citizen in every walk of life. It will require the sustained involvement of parents, teachers, local school administrators, business leaders, elected officials, and the public at large. It will require recognizing the value of lifelong learning, raising our expectations, holding ourselves accountable for results, and never settling for the minimum. Every American can help ensure that young people receive the quality education they need and deserve. We can do so by participating in parent-teacher organizations; by serving on our local school boards; and by supporting private institutions, adult education, and literacy programs. We can also lend our support to our local libraries and museums, and encourage our children to take advantage of these valuable educational resources.

This year, as we observe American Education Week and reflect upon its theme, "Learning and Liberty: Our Roots, Our Future," let us renew our determination to improve America's educational system. Strengthening our schools is one of the greatest investments we can make in our Nation's future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week beginning November 12, 1989, as American Education Week. I urge all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Editorial note: For the President's remarks of Nov. 14, 1989, on signing Proclamation 6067, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (vol. 25, p. 1743).

Proclamation 6068 of November 15, 1989

National Diabetes Month, 1989

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Diabetes mellitus is one of the most serious public health problems challenging this country today. An estimated 11 million Americans have the disease, and about half of the them are not aware of their illness.

Each year, more than 500,000 new cases of diabetes are identified. All diabetics are at increased risk of developing eye, nerve, or kidney damage, as well as heart disease. These complications make diabetes a leading cause of death in the United States. Affecting individuals of all ages, regardless of gender or race, diabetes costs our Nation billions of dollars annually in health care and lost economic productivity. More important, however, and more tragic is the untold personal suffering endured by diabetics and their families.

Fortunately, however, the mystery of diabetes is beginning to unfold. Medical research has produced remarkable progress in understanding the causes and complications of diabetes and in devising treatments for it. In insulin-dependent diabetes, the immune system destroys insulin-producing cells. Recent research advances include the identification of markers that signal the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes years before it occurs—a discovery that may one day make early intervention possible.

Progress also has been made in unraveling the puzzle of non-insulin-dependent diabetes, with indications that this form of diabetes is actually many diseases with different causes related to cellular abnormalities. In this area of research, scientists are developing and applying the tools needed to examine what happens in diabetes at the cellular level.

Basic and clinical research advances have significantly reduced diabetes-related deaths and have improved the quality of life for people with diabetes. Nevertheless, much needs to be done before the cure and prevention of diabetes and its complications become a reality. The Federal Government, in cooperation with voluntary and professional health organizations, is continuing to conduct research aimed at eliminating diabetes as a threat to the health of present and future generations.

To enhance public understanding of diabetes and to recognize the efforts of those working to eliminate this public health problem, the Con-